

**RULES AND REGULATIONS****Section 5 - Identification of Horses****1 IDENTIFICATION DETAILS**

- 1.1 All identification details must be completed on the horse diagram on the Application for Registration and be recorded on the Certificate of Registration. When a horse is inspected for identification purposes, the horse presented for inspection must be consistent with the horse's Certificate of Registration as identified under these rules.
- 1.2 The Application for Registration should not be submitted to the Society until such times as the brands are visible.
- 1.3 Any horse presented for identification verification must be branded and able to be identified under the Society verification of Markings Policy and verification of Brands policy (including: sex, colour, markings, brands, etc) as defined under these rules.
- 1.4 In the case of a horse registered as a stallion and the Inspector has determined the horse is a gelding. Due to equine procedure of a horse being gelded, the Registered Owner must notify the Society the horse has been gelded to enable the registration to be updated. It is not necessary for the Certificate of Registration to be returned to the Society. The owner should then write GELDED beside "Sex: STALLION" on the Certificate of Registration.

2 MARKINGS

- 2.1 For identification purposes, all markings on the horse's registration must be consistent with the horse.
- 2.2 All white markings must be outlined and should be shaded in accordingly.
- 2.3 White flecking should be indicated by small light lines scattered over the area.
- 2.4 Coloured spots must be outlined and the colour identified.

3 BRANDS

- 3.1 Brands are regarded as an acquired marking for identification purposes. Brands are compulsory.
- 3.2 The horse must be branded with a freeze or fire stock brand, identification number and foaling season year brand prior to registration. It is recommended the stock brand is placed on the near shoulder and numeral brands are placed on the off shoulder, or in accordance with the Department of Agriculture requirements in the State or Territory where the branding takes place.
- 3.3 A horse which has been branded and no evidence of the brand is visible, the horse must be re-branded below an existing brand or placed in another position on the horse. Should the brands on the Certificate of Registration NOT correspond with the brands on the horse, the Certificate will require amendment, please refer to Rule 12 – Alterations to Identification.
- 3.4 **Stock Brand**
 - 3.4.1 Registration of a stock brand with a Department of Agriculture may be compulsory in your state. Contact the relevant state/territory authority to confirm the registration requirements in your state before branding. Stock brands may be known as a cattle brand, symbol brand, three-piece brand, board brand or the like. In some states, the branding authority may issue penalties for using an unregistered brand.
 - 3.4.2 For registration purposes, brands are regarded as an acquired marking and the Society will note the brand completed on the application for registration for identification purposes. It is the responsibility of the owner to abide by state government requirements in relation to livestock identification. A personalised brand may be used where brand registration is not compulsory.
 - 3.4.3 In cases where brands are not clearly visible, blurred or incomplete and brand characters are unable to be deciphered, the horse must be microchipped.
 - 3.4.4 Brands on the horse must coincide with the brands shown on the Application for Registration or Certificate of Registration. The identification of a horse is not acceptable if the readable brands (position and characters) on the horse are not consistent with the horse's registration for the same body part.
- 3.5 **Numeral Brands**
 - 3.5.1 Numeral brands consist of an identification number (being the top brand) and a foaling season year number (being the bottom brand).
 - 3.5.2 Foaling Season Year is defined as a twelve-month period starting on 1st August and ending 31st July of the following year, during which a foal is born. The Foaling Year is abbreviated to a single year, being the year the period commences. For example: the Foaling Year commencing on 1st August 2020 and ending on 31st July 2021 is the 2020 Foaling Year.
 - 3.5.2.1 In Europe and North America, the foaling year period is 1st January to 31st December of the same year. The Foaling Year is abbreviated to a single year, referring to the calendar year (1st January – 31st December). For example: the Foaling Year commencing on 1st January 2020 and ended on 31st December 2020 is the 2020 Foaling Year.
 - 3.5.3 The identification number signifies the order in which horses born in the same foaling year were branded with the stock brand. A horse branded with an identification number must also be branded with a year number.
 - 3.5.4 The following year numbers apply to the foal years indicated:

YEAR	<u>Australasia, Asia, Africa, South America</u>	<u>Europe & North America</u>
NUMBER	FOALING YEAR	FOALING YEAR
8	1st August <u>2018</u> to 31st July 2019	1st January <u>2018</u> to 31st December 2018
9	1st August <u>2019</u> to 31st July 2020	1st January <u>2019</u> to 31st December 2019



0	1st August <u>2020</u> to 31st July 2021	1st January <u>2020</u> to 31st December 2020
1	1st August <u>2021</u> to 31st July 2022	1st January <u>2021</u> to 31st December 2021
2	1st August <u>2022</u> to 31st July 2023	1st January <u>2022</u> to 31st December 2022
3	1st August <u>2023</u> to 31st July 2024	1st January <u>2023</u> to 31st December 2023
4	1st August <u>2024</u> to 31st July 2025	1st January <u>2024</u> to 31st December 2024
5	1st August <u>2025</u> to 31st July 2026	1st January <u>2025</u> to 31st December 2025
6	1st August <u>2026</u> to 31st July 2027	1st January <u>2026</u> to 31st December 2026
7	1st August <u>2027</u> to 31st July 2028	1st January <u>2027</u> to 31st December 2027
8	1st August <u>2028</u> to 31st July 2029	1st January <u>2028</u> to 31st December 2028

- 3.5.5 Any horse branded with the incorrect foaling year brand must be re-branded below the existing brand or in another position with the correct foaling year brand.
- 3.5.6 The first foal to be branded with a stock brand and born in the 2020 foaling year would be branded 1 over 0. The second foal to be branded, born in the same foaling year, would be branded 2 over 0.
- 3.5.7 Should the owner of a stock brand loan the stock brand to another person, the identifying number must remain in the same number order for horses branded with same stock brand and born in the same foaling season year.

4 **MICROCHIP**

- 4.1 Microchips are not compulsory if the horse can be identified by brands, with colour and markings accurately recorded on the registration. A microchip does not waive the requirement for a horse to be branded.
- 4.2 In cases where brands are not clearly visible, blurred, in complete or brand characters are unable to be deciphered, the horse must be microchipped as an additional form of horse identification. The Society Inspector must be able to determine the horse has been branded by identifying some evidence all three brands exists, then a microchip can be accepted, providing the markings are consistent with the horse's registration.
- 4.3 If evidence of all three brands is unable to be determined by the Society Inspector (stock brand, identification number and foaling year season brand) the horse must be rebranded and a microchip will NOT waive this requirement.
- 4.4 When a horse is microchipped, the sticker with the microchip number and barcode may be attached to the top right hand corner of the registration papers, or recorded with the markings and brands on the Application for Registration and Certificate of Registration.
- 4.5 The microchip must be readable for identification purposes and must be correctly recorded on the horse's registration. The identification of a horse is not acceptable if the microchip is not readable or is inconsistent with the horse's registration.
- 4.6 The microchip should be located in the nuchal ligament on the left side of the neck, 3cm below the crest and approximately halfway between the horse's poll and withers.
- 4.7 The microchip must meet country standards and contain a unique identification number and able to be permanently implanted in the horse and designed to transmit information when activated by a reader.
- 4.8 Implanting a microchip must be done by a licenced veterinarian, professional microchip provider or person accredited to microchip horses in accordance with any government or legal requirement.

5 **HAIR WHORLS**

- 5.1 Marking of hair whorls are not compulsory and may be shown wherever possible by a small "o" together with an arrow in the direction of the whorl.

6 **PERMANENT SCARS**

- 6.1 Marking of scars are not compulsory and may be indicated by a small "x" and a large scar by a series of small "x" along the affected area.

7 **DISTINGUISHING MARKS**

- 7.1 Any peculiar, abnormal markings or a deformity must be indicated and labelled accordingly on the horse diagram; for example, indentations, wall eye, permanent lameness, capped hip, enlarged joint, one eye, etc.

8 **COLOUR**

- 8.1 The horse's colour on the Registration is based on the horse's **Physical Appearance** with colours identified under the Society's Rules and Regulations. True genetic colour may be ambiguous for Society Inspectors and/or other members, as the true genetic colour may be hidden by physical appearance.
- 8.2 The coat colour of a foal can appear mousy grey or dun when the foal is born and when the foal's coat sheds; the true base colour will become obvious. While most horses remain the same base colour throughout life, some will develop a different base colour as the horse matures.
- 8.3 Owners of newborn foals are advised to submit the Application for Registration after the foal coat has shed (the Society recommends a minimum of 4 months of age) to reduce the chance of colour amendments being necessary in the future.
- 8.4 The foal coat may mask identifying white markings on the horse's lower legs and muzzle and after the foal coat has shed, these markings will become obvious.
- 8.5 As a horse matures, members are strongly advised to check the horse's coat colour and identifying markings against the horse's Certificate of Registration to ensure the horse's identification has remained accurate.
- 8.6 Owners of Registered Australian Stock Horses may privately arrange Horse Coat Colour Testing to identify a horse's **True Genetic Colour** at their own expense. The result of such testing, in addition to physical appearance colour, may be noted separately on the horse's Registration. To update the registration to include True Genetic Colour, the following must be submitted to the Society:

- 8.6.1 The horse's original Certificate of Registration.
- 8.6.2 Documents from the Genetic Colour Testing Laboratory.
- 8.6.3 Colour photographs of the horse (front, back, near and off sides).
- 8.6.4 The prescribed amendment fee.
- 8.7 The basic coat colours are black, brown, bay and chestnut, although the categories of black/brown and bay/brown are acceptable. These may be modified by either dominant patterns or diluting genes to produce grey, roan, taffy, pied, dun, palomino and white.
- 8.8 Black - black pigment is generally throughout the body coat, including muzzle, flanks, limbs, mane and tail. No pattern other than white markings is present. There are two types of Black, fading and non-fading, as follows:
 - 8.8.1 Non-fading black is also known as jet black and does not generally fade.
 - 8.8.2 Fading black horses with exposure to the elements and sweat may lose some of the black character and may have a rusty tinge, but the fine hairs around the eyes and muzzle will be black.
- 8.9 Brown - the body colour is predominantly brown or black, with flesh colour mealy or brown around the muzzle and flanks. Mane, tail and lower parts of the legs are black.
- 8.10 Bay - the body coat is bay, although the shade may vary from dull red, approaching brown, to a yellowish colour approaching chestnut. The mane and tail are black and almost invariably there is black on the lower legs and tips of the ears.
- 8.11 Chestnut - the body colour ranges from a light washy yellow, through golden and reddish shades, to a dark liver colour, with the pigment being evenly distributed. The mane and tail are chestnut colour which may be lighter or darker than the body coat. The darkest chestnuts may appear chocolate, liver colour or nearly black and will show some red character in their coats, usually around the eyes, the pasterns or in the mane or tail and the coat is entirely free of true black hair.
- 8.12 Grey - the body colour is an uneven mixture of coloured and white hairs. The foal will show a basic colour at birth, but with increasing age white hair gradually develops and eventually the whole body turns grey. White hairs usually appear first on the face. The colour of the mane, tail and points is associated with the basic colour. The skin will be dark, the base colour of a grey may not be known unless the animal is viewed at a very young age and should be stated if known. By applying the laws of inheritance, a grey horse must have at least one grey parent.
- 8.13 Roan - the body coat colour has a fairly even mixture of white and base coat colour hairs throughout the body, but the head, lower legs, mane and tail remain the same as the base coat colour that identifies the type of roan, ie Chestnut Roan, Bay Roan, Black Roan, etc. The base coat colour always precedes the word roan.
- 8.14 Buckskin/Dun – results from a single cremello dilution of solid colours and the horse's skin is black. The colour options for registration are defined as follows:
 - 8.14.1 Buckskin – the body coat colour is cream, yellow, golden or coppery with black legs, mane and tail. The body coat colour for burnt buckskin may appear very dark, bordering to brown.
 - 8.14.2 Dun – the body coat colour may appear red, yellow-tan, mouse-brown or blue and always has dun factors (dorsal stripe, mask, leg barring and/or shoulder stripes). The dorsal strip, legs, mane and tail will be a darker shade of the same body colour. A gunmetal silver, slate grey or blue black horse with a dorsal stripe is known as Grullo (pronounced gru-yo). A red body coat colour with a dorsal stripe is known as Red Dun.
- 8.15 Palomino - body colour may vary from a light yellow to golden yellow with a white mane and tail.
- 8.16 Pied or Broken Colours – also known as pinto, a horse marked with significant white patches on the body coat. For registration purposes, the horse will be registered with base colours and pied (ie, Bay Pied, Chestnut/Grey Pied, etc). All pied horses must have a pied parent. There are four coat patterns in pied horses known as tobiano, sabino, overo and splashed white.
- 8.17 Taffy - the body coat is a red colour with flaxen coloured mane, tail and chocolate lower legs or dark chocolate body colour, silver dapples and light mane/tail. The coat colour should be identified as Bay Taffy, Chestnut Taffy, Brown Taffy, etc.
- 8.18 White/Cream Dilute – results from a double cremello dilution and the horse's skin is pink. The colour options for registration are defined as follows:
 - 8.18.1 Cremello – the body coat colour is light cream, ivory or yellow. The mane and tail will be white or ivory and the eyes are blue.
 - 8.18.2 Perlino – the body coat colour is light cream, tan or coffee coloured. Mane and tail will be smoky, tan or coffee coloured and eyes are blue.
 - 8.18.3 Champagne – the body coat colour may appear yellow, tan, coffee or silvery chocolate. The mane and tail may be a lighter or dark variation of the body coat colour. The skin may be freckled and will be a brownish pink; the eyes will be amber (born with blue eyes).

9 **VERIFICATION OF IDENTIFICATION POLICIES**

- 9.1 The organising committee for an ASH event may appoint two Society Inspectors to view horses prior to competition. The organising committee for an Approved ASH Sale must appoint two Society Inspectors to view horses prior to sale.
- 9.2 The Society Inspector must REJECT a horse for an ASH event (including an Approved ASH Sale) if the identity of the horse is not acceptable under the Verification of Markings Policy, as well as the Verification of Brands Policy.
- 9.3 **Verification of Markings Policy**
 - 9.3.1 The body coat colour and white markings on the horse presented for inspection should be identical with the horse's Certificate of Registration, irrespective of the coat condition and subject to the coat being dry (except under wet weather conditions).
 - 9.3.2 A horse would NOT be rejected due to a marking discrepancy, if the Society Inspector has identified the following has not been indicated on the horse's Certificate of Registration:
 - 9.3.2.1 Hair whorls.

- 9.3.2.2 A recent injury or swelling.
- 9.3.2.3 Permanent scars.
- 9.3.2.4 Other acquired markings – saddle or girth marks, split ear, enlarged joint and the like.
- 9.3.3 A horse would NOT be rejected due to a MINOR marking discrepancy, if the Society Inspector has identified the horse's Certificate of Registration is adequate for the identity of the horse to be confirmed. Such minor marking discrepancies are as follows:
 - 9.3.3.1 A white marking has been completed accurately on only one side view of the horse.
 - 9.3.3.2 Small markings on body coat not visible at time of registration or acquired markings since registration which may have resulted from rain scald, saddlemarks, scars and the like.
 - 9.3.3.3 A white marking lacks an accurate shape definition, the size is slightly inaccurate or the marking is slightly off centre.
 - 9.3.3.4 The horse's coat colour has changed due to increasing age (foal to mature age coat), genetics (grey) or coat colour could be affected with seasonal changes (summer/winter – bay/brown, brown/black).
 - 9.3.3.5 If not rejected under this rule, should the Society Inspector believe the registration should be updated, the following is required:
 - 9.3.3.5.1 The Current Owner must complete a Horse Identification Amendment form with colour, all white markings, microchip, brands and identification marks, to the satisfaction of the Society Inspector. The application to be signed by the Current Owner and witnessed by the Society Inspector.
 - 9.3.3.5.2 Payment of the Amendment Fee with cheque or credit card. Cash will not be acceptable. A tax invoice will be issued by the Society after payment is processed at Head office.
 - 9.3.3.5.3 The inspector to ensure the declaration is promptly submitted to the Society with the horse's ORIGINAL Certificate of Registration and the owner's payment.
- 9.3.4 A horse WOULD BE REJECTED from an ASH event (including Approved ASH Sales), if the Society Inspector has identified a SIGNIFICANT marking discrepancy whereby any other person could dispute the identity of the horse.
 - 9.3.4.1 Such significant marking discrepancies are as follows:
 - 9.3.4.1.1 Any white marking on the horse (visible from a three metre distance) has NOT been completed for the specific body part.
 - 9.3.4.1.2 A white marking on the registration is not evident on the specific body part, excluding horses with a grey (white in colour) body coat.
 - 9.3.4.1.3 A horse's coat colour is incorrect (with exception of rule 9.3.3.4).
 - 9.3.4.2 In which case, a Horse Identification Amendment is not acceptable, and a Rejected Horse Identification form must be completed with colour, all white markings, microchip, brands and identification marks, to the satisfaction of the Society Inspector. The application must be signed by the Current Owner and witnessed by the Society Inspector.

9.4 Verification of Brands Policy

- 9.4.1 A horse would NOT be rejected due to a brand discrepancy, if the Society Inspector has identified the following:
 - 9.4.1.1 The stock brand, identification number and foaling season year number **MUST BE** clearly visible on the horse. The brands on the horse are the same characters as the brands indicated on the horse's Certificate of Registration for the specified body parts.
 - 9.4.1.2 The Society Inspector will determine whether the brand is acceptable, as defined below:
 - 9.4.1.2.1 In the case of a stock brand with three characters, at least two characters of the brand must be clearly visible and be able to be deciphered by the Inspector.
 - 9.4.1.2.2 In the case of the identification number and foaling season year number, the characters of both brands must be able to be deciphered by the Inspector.
 - 9.4.1.3 Visibility would be determined by the Society Inspector on the day of the event or sale. The Society provides no guarantee by accepting a horse at any event or sale, that the brands would be visible for the lifetime of the horse.
- 9.4.2 A horse would NOT be rejected due to a brand discrepancy, providing a readable microchip is detected, if the Society Inspector has identified the following:
 - 9.4.2.1 Some evidence all three brands exist (stock brand, identification number and foaling season year number).
 - 9.4.2.2 Any clearly visible brands must be consistent with the horse's registration for the same body part.
 - 9.4.2.3 If any brands are not clearly visible, blurred, incomplete or brand characters are unable to be deciphered (regardless of coat condition), the horse must be microchipped.
 - 9.4.2.4 The microchip number must be readable and noted on the horse's Certificate of Registration. The number must be consistent with the number on the horse's registration.
- 9.4.3 A horse WOULD BE REJECTED from an ASH event (including Approved ASH Sales), if the Society Inspector has identified a SIGNIFICANT brand or microchip discrepancy whereby any other person could dispute the identity of the horse. Such significant discrepancies are as follows:
 - 9.4.3.1 Evidence of all three brands is unable to be determined by the Society Inspector (stock brand, identification number and foaling year season brand) - the horse must be rebranded. A microchip will NOT waive this requirement.

- 9.4.3.2 A brand indicated on the horse's Certificate of Registration when compared to a visible brand on the horse for the same body part, has different characters.
- 9.4.3.3 A brand indicated on the horse's Certificate of Registration when compared to the horse presented for inspection is located on the incorrect body part.
- 9.4.3.4 The microchip number is not readable, or the number is not consistent with the horse's registration.
- 9.4.4 A horse would NOT be rejected, if the Society Inspector has identified the following:
 - 9.4.4.1 The horse has been branded with the Society's A Brand, or other additional brands not indicated on the horse's Certificate of Registration.
 - 9.4.4.2 Handwriting size or style would not detract from a horse being accepted providing the brands on the horse are clearly visible and correspond to the horse's Certificate of Registration.
 - 9.4.4.3 If not rejected under these rules and the Society Inspector believes it is necessary to update the horse's identification and registration in any way, the following will apply:
 - 9.4.4.3.1 The Current Owner must complete a Horse Identification Amendment form with colour, all white markings, microchip, brands and identification marks, to the satisfaction of the Society Inspector. The application must be signed by the Current Owner and witnessed by the Society Inspector.
 - 9.4.4.3.2 Payment of the Prescribed Amendment Fee by cheque or credit card must be received. Cash will not be acceptable. A tax invoice will be issued by the Society after payment is processed at Head office.
 - 9.4.4.3.3 The Society Inspector to ensure the amendment is promptly returned to the Society with the horse's ORIGINAL Certificate of Registration and the owner's payment.

9.5 Owner's Responsibility

- 9.5.1 The registered owner of the horse is responsible for ensuring the person in charge of the horse at an ASH event is able to produce a copy of the horse's Certificate of Registration for identification purposes, where required. Failure to produce the horse's Certificate of Registration may result in a horse being REJECTED for participation in an ASH event (including Approved ASH Sales).
- 9.5.2 It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure the horse's Certificate of Registration is correct and the identity of the horse can be verified at time of inspection under the Verification of Marking, Brands and Microchip Policies.
- 9.5.3 The owner of the horse may clip or wet down the brand site to improve visibility of the brand. The Society Inspector will determine if the brand is sufficiently visible under these rules. Under some circumstances, the inspector may require additional identification and request the horse be microchipped.

9.6 Rejected Horse Policy

- 9.6.1 In the event of a rejected horse, the horse's Certificate of Registration would be retained by the Inspector. A Rejected Horse Identification form shall be completed by the Inspector and witnessed by an adult in charge of the horse. The Certificate will be held by the Society and the horse is SUSPENDED until the identification has been rectified to the satisfaction of the Inspector on the day of the event, or the Society. A suspended horse is not eligible to participate in an ASH event or sale.
- 9.6.2 A second inspection may be requested by the current owner during the inspection period and prior to the ASH event or sale commencing. At the second inspection, the horse's identification may be accepted if requirements have been met to the satisfaction of the Society Inspector as defined under these rules.
 - 9.6.2.1 If accepted, the Rejected Horse Identification form would be destroyed and the horse become eligible to compete in the ASH event or sale.
 - 9.6.2.2 Failure to provide the required documentation or satisfy the Society Inspector, would result in the horse being REJECTED from an ASH event or sale and the registration being SUSPENDED until such times as the matter has been resolved to the Society's satisfaction.
- 9.6.3 In the case of a significant marking, brand or microchip discrepancy the following is required for a second inspection to be considered, please refer to rule 12 - ALTERATIONS TO IDENTIFICATION.
 - 9.6.3.1 Failure to produce all required documents, completed and signed as required, would result in the horse remaining REJECTED from the event, as the identity of the horse could be disputed.
- 9.6.4 In the event the Society Inspector has conducted a second inspection and collected the required fees, the horse may be accepted in an ASH event or sale.
- 9.6.5 The provisions of this rule, conferring a discretion of a Society Inspector to accept or reject an alteration to the horse's identity is at the discretion of the Society Inspector, where the properly completed and signed documentation has been provided by the current owner of the registered horse.
- 9.6.6 The inspector must ensure the Rejected Horse Identification or Horse Identification - Amendment forms are promptly submitted to the Society with the horse's ORIGINAL Certificate of Registration and the owner's payment (where required).

10 POLICY FOR SOCIETY INSPECTORS

- 10.1 Where verification of horses' identification is to be conducted, the following is required:
 - 10.1.1 The organising committee for an ASH event may appoint two Society Inspectors to view horses prior to competition.
 - 10.1.2 The organising committee for an Approved ASH Sale must appoint two Society Inspectors to view horses prior to sale
- 10.2 A Society Inspector is NOT able to participate in the inspection of any horse as indicated below:
 - 10.2.1 The Inspector has a conflict of interest – any situation whereby the Inspector's decision may be influenced.
 - 10.2.2 The Inspector has a pecuniary interest – expectation of financial gain or loss.

- 10.2.3 The Inspector's immediate family, including partner, owns the horse.
- 10.2.4 The Inspector is a business partner, employer or employee of the member.
- 10.2.5 A horse currently owned or previously owned (less than one year) by the Inspector.
- 10.2.6 A horse under one year of age, was sired by a stallion currently owned by the Inspector.
- 10.3 When an Inspector is NOT able to inspect a horse or has concerns in relation to accepting or rejecting a horse, the inspection of the horse must be referred to the alternate Inspector or a Director of the Board should be consulted. The organising committee may approve exemptions to this rule, if the alternate inspector has a conflict or pecuniary interest, or a Director is not available.
- 10.4 Conflict of Interest/Pecuniary Interest
 - 10.4.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST – is defined as a situation in which a Society Official (Director, Inspector, Judge and the like) has a duty to make decisions on behalf of the Society and has an interest in the subject sufficient to appear to influence the decision to pass judgement (accept, reject, score, place and the like).
 - 10.4.2 A PECUNIARY INTEREST – is defined as an interest a Society Official (Director, Inspector, Judge and the like) may have in relation to a person or horse because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person.
 - 10.4.3 Having a CONFLICT OF INTEREST or PECUNIARY INTEREST is not evidence of wrongdoing, but it may appear to compromise a decision. When making a choice to act as a Society Official, the person must consider the responsibilities of acting in the capacity of the position. The Society expects any person accepting a role as a Society Official to make decisions that are objective and independent from such interests that can result in impartial decisions.
 - 10.4.4 When a situation is recognised, that could be considered a CONFLICT OF INTEREST or PECUNIARY INTEREST, the response is straightforward: make the interest known and decline the duty. An interest may be that of the person; the person's spouse or de facto partner, a business partner, employer or employee and the like.
 - 10.4.5 A Society Official does not have a CONFLICT OF INTEREST if the concern is so insignificant, or a PECUNIARY INTEREST if the expectation of gain or loss is so remote or insignificant; that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to the decision. A person is not taken to have a Conflict of Interest or Pecuniary Interest in a matter, if the person is unaware of the interest.

11 SOCIETY'S A BRAND

- 11.1 The Branch must appoint Branding Officers for the purpose of branding Registered **STUD BOOK** Australian Stock Horses with the Society's A Brand. The Branch must ensure the Branding Officers are adequately experienced with freeze and/or fire brands.
- 11.2 Branding Officers should advise horse owners of any necessary information prior to branding, i.e., freeze branded horses should not become wet or be rugged for a period of time after branding.
- 11.3 Branding Officers must not brand any horse unless the appropriate **STUD BOOK** Certificate of Registration is produced.
- 11.4 The Branding Officer accepts the same responsibilities as a Society Inspector under the Society's Identification rules (including: the Verification of Markings and Verification of Brands Policy) prior to branding with the Society's A Brand as follows:
 - 11.4.1 If the horse would not be rejected under these policies, the Branding Officer may brand the horse with the Society's A Brand on the near thigh.
 - 11.4.2 If the horse is REJECTED under these policies, the Branding Officer must NOT brand the horse with the Society's A Brand. The horse's Certificate of Registration would be collected by the Branding Officer and forwarded to the Society with a Rejected Horse Identification form within seven days of the inspection. This form shall be completed by the Branding Officer and witnessed by an adult in charge of the horse. The Certificate will be held by the Society until such time as the Society is satisfied the owner has rectified the registration anomalies in accordance with the regulations. The rejected horse is suspended until the registration has been rectified and the Certificate of Registration is returned to the owner.
- 11.5 Once branded, the horse's Certificate of Registration is then duly stamped with the Society's A Brand stamp and the Certificate of Registration returned to the owner by the Branding Officer. The branding of the horse will not be noted on Society records due to the cost in processing alterations.
- 11.6 It is recommended, the Branch conduct official branding days in conjunction with other Branch activities, so additional expenses are not incurred.
- 11.7 The Branch is responsible for ensuring a microchip reader and clippers are available. Clippers to be suitable for clipping the brand site and in the case of freeze branding, supply of liquid nitrogen or dry ice. Branches may charge a fee in order to recoup costs incurred.
- 11.8 The Branch or Management Council may purchase a Society A Brand through the Society for the purpose of conducting branding days.
- 11.9 Outside of Australia, branches are responsible for investigating any requirements, or the possibility of, the A Brand being registered in their area and report any such findings and associated costs to the Society for approval of the Board prior to the brand being registered or used for the branding of horses. The Board may approve reimbursement of associated costs in relation to the brand registration. When approved by the Board, the A Brand will be provided to overseas ASHS Branch.
- 11.10 Any officers reported to be acting inappropriately may be referred to the Society's Disciplinary Committee at the discretion of the Stud Book Committee.

12 ALTERATIONS TO IDENTIFICATION

- 12.1 In relation to colour, the horse's coat colour has naturally changed from a foal colour to mature age coat colour (ie, bay to brown), genetics (turning grey with age) or coat colour affected with seasonal changes (summer/winter – bay/brown, brown/black). In which case, all white markings and any visible brands must remain consistent with the initial registration. Return the original Certificate of Registration with a letter notifying the natural colour change with payment of the prescribed Amendment fee. If the whereabouts of the Certificate is unknown, a re-issue fee will apply.

- 12.2 To change a horse's identification due to incorrect details on initial registration (colour, white markings, microchip number, brands and/or identifying marks), the following is required:
- 12.2.1 The Current Owner with an adult witness must complete a Horse Identification - Amendment Form with colour, all white markings, identification marks, brands and microchip (where applicable) must be completed. The Current Owner and an adult witness must sign the amendment form to verify the horse's identification. If the horse has been microchipped, the microchip number must be completed on the form.
 - 12.2.2 The Member who originally registered the horse, as identified on the Certificate of Registration as "Registered by", must consider the horse's registration details (ie, sire, dam, sex, age), view the horse (or photographs) and the Horse Identification - Amendment Form. To authorise an alteration, the member must sign the form as original owner to verify the amended identity on the horse (colour, markings and brands) is accurate and not disputed and therefore, authorise the Society to update the horse's registration.
 - 12.2.3 Payment of the prescribed Amendment Fee – cheque or credit card (MasterCard or Visa ONLY). Cash will not be acceptable. A tax invoice will be issued by the Society after payment is received at Head office.
 - 12.2.4 Providing the Current Owner, an adult witness and the Member who originally registered the horse has completed and signed the form, the horse may return to the inspection area for a second occasion. Providing the printed form is clear & legible, signed by the relevant parties and completed to the satisfaction of the Society Inspector, the horse may be accepted into the ASH event or sale. If accepted, the initial Reject Horse Identification should be destroyed.
 - 12.2.5 Colour photographs for identification purposes are recommended and should be attached to the Amendment Form, showing near and off side views, forehead markings and all visible brands.
 - 12.2.6 Failure to receive appropriate authorisation, would result in the horse being SUSPENDED, as the identity of the horse could be disputed.
- 12.3 If the required authorisation is not able to be obtained, the current owner may apply to the Board for exemption of the rule. The applicant must submit all relevant identification documents and include an explanation of why exemption should be granted. The applicant will be responsible for payment of the prescribed appeal fee (non-refundable) in advance. The applicant will also be responsible for payment of any additional expenses incurred by the Society in reviewing the case. The Board and/or Society may undertake investigations or require the horse to be DNA profiled. Any exemption shall be a matter for the Board in its absolute discretion.